Press Release

Burghfield & District Branch of the Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Parade, Sunday 12th November 2023

Release date: 13th November 2023

Every year the residents of Burghfield assemble in the cemetry at St Mary's Church in the village to remember the fallen named on the Cenotaph in the cemetery. Also remembered are all British and Commonwealth servicemen and women who have given their lives over the years so that we can live freely and peacefully. Recent troubles in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan adds to this act of remembrance. Today, 12th November 2023, some 300 plus residents from both local adult and youth organisations, as well as local government representatives, the Royal British Legion (RBL), the uniformed Services, and the Women's Institute paid their tributes by laying some 15 wreaths. The Rector of St Mary's, the Rev Glynn Lautenbach, led the Service. During the Service a flyover by a Chinook helicopter from RAF Odiham and a piped lament by Mr Colin Taylor added a military resonance to the occasion. All uniformed organisations and others marched to the Church from The Hatchgate Pub in the village and, after the service, back again, with the salute taken en route by Major John Steeds, President of the Burghfield and District Branch of the RBL. During this Service we are always reminded of the epitaph engraved on the Memorial of the British 2nd Division in the British War Graves Commission Cemetry of Kohima (North East India), where one of the fiercest battles against the Japanese was fought in April - June 1944:

"When you go home, tell them of us and say: for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

A highly successful, memorable and, at times, moving event to remember all those who had sacrificed their lives for their country.
The parade was organised by Lt. Col. Bruce Neeves, Parade Commander and Chairman of the Burghfield & District Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Photographs: Charles Holden Photography
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